

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AND MAPS HISTORY PLACES AND PEOPLE

Sources: UH Archives (various files); interview with Eleanor Au (former head of Government Documents 1955-1980s), and Mabel Suzuki's recall of people and events

1907 University of Hawaii established as a land-grant college. And in 1907, under an amendment to the Morrill Act, land-grant colleges became depositories of the Federal Depository Library Program —(34 Stat., 1014). Among the first books received by the Library were government documents.

1929-1942 File (President's Office file on Library)

"The Library in Wartime" undated draft written by Wai Chee Yee, assistant cataloger and reads in part:

"From the Library's government documents collection, a display on civilian defense was developed. Handbooks on fire fighting, camouflage, blackouts, shelters, evacuation, gas protection, decontamination, emergency relief and medical services and air raid protection stimulated lively interest among faculty members and students. "

... [goes on to describe other library activities] ...

"These results were accomplished notwithstanding the fact that, for six weeks after the blitz, the Library was handicapped with a mere skeleton staff as the majority of librarians were helping with the fingerprinting, enumerating, and other defense work."

(Folder 228)

December 30, 1942 to about August 2, 1943)

From an exchange of letters and memos about a Miss Gale Etsuko Sakai between Gale Sakai, Mary Pringle, and Gregg Sinclair : Since Miss Sakai was of Japanese ancestry and attending graduate school in Illinois, she needed to receive approval from the military governor of Hawaii, the War Department in Washington, D.C., and the 12th Naval District in San Francisco in order to return to Hawaii. There was a fear that if she goes the ordinary routine and experience more delays, by the time she arrives back in Honolulu, she might be in demand by the Department of Public Instruction and the Library of Hawaii. Miss Pringle thought she was excellent university material and was anxious to have her as soon as possible.

May 13, 1943 memo to President Sinclair from Mary Pringle

"We have heard nothing in regard to Miss Etsuko Sakai who is very eager to return to the territory and who as you know has been investigated by the FBI and received an okay from the San Francisco Naval District to return to the islands. A few months ago we thought we could expedite her return and you told me that you had been advised to take the request up through the Governor rather than direct with the naval authorities. We are needing extra people on the staff very badly and the positions are still vacant as assistants in the Reference

and Catalog Department. We would be glad to have Miss Sakai for one of these positions. She prefers the Reference and Circulation position. I will be glad if you will let me know further about Miss Sakai.”

May 21, 1943 memo from Gregg M. Sinclair to Miss Mary Pringle

“I have received your communication of May 13, regarding employees. I think you will be glad to know that last week, I wrote to Governor Stainback about Miss Gale Etsuko Sakai, and asked if he could do anything that would be helpful. ...”

October 6, 1943 memo to the President Sinclair from Carl Stroven

“A Miss Harue Morimoto, recent UM graduate applied for a library position. At the time, a vacancy in government documents was about to be vacant, however, she did not have any government documents background... Miss Gale Etsuko Sakai, who had accepted a position in the cataloging department had some experience in government documents and is so much interested in them that she is at present taking a special documents course at the University of Illinois. Consequently, Miss Sakai was very glad to shift to the position in the government documents collection. “

Carl Stroven requested approval for Miss Morimoto’s appointment as assistant cataloger.

From Miscellaneous File U

Evidently Miss Sakai did get back to the islands and was hired as the government documents librarian. Letter dated February 1, 1946 addressed to Gale E. Sakai, Esq. and Government Documents Collection, University of Hawaii. From A.W. Tyson, Colonel, Headquarters USAF, Middle Pacific, APO 959:

The letter denied her request for the publication: Confidential Special Report. Strategic Engineering Study, no. 110 Palau Islands (Carolinas) Terrain Intelligence and other publications pertaining to Hawaii and other Pacific islands because there was no clear cut War Department policy and a concern for the future security in the Pacific. He went on to say that his office is seeking the advice of the War Department on this matter.

(Note: according to Eleanor Au, Miss Sakai was the first full time government documents librarian; Miss Sakai became Gale Hamilton after her marriage—it is not certain when she left the Library).

Folder 228

June 30, 1943 letter to Miss Pringle from Gregg Sinclair. Since Miss Pringle could not attend the commencement for June 1943, Gregg Sinclair wrote her and quoted what he said in his commencement speech:

“Miss Pringle became the librarian at the University in 1922 when the Library had only 13,000 volumes and three employees. Today it has 159,000 volumes and a staff of twenty-eight. Through Miss Pringle’s wise management the Libray has become a real college library. I wish to thank Miss Pringle for her fine contributions to the college community, as well as to the Library, and to wish her aloha.”

1945 Army Map Service (AMS)

Distribution of AMS maps began November 1945. Full collection of 50,000 maps to be completed in three years.

To house the collection 30 map cases (5 drawers each) were required

The Library tried asking for reduction to the Pacific basin since 50,000 maps were overwhelming. However, in a Nov. 6, 1945 letter from John Appleton, Far East Division, Dept. of State, this request was denied since it would be extra work for the AMS staff. The letter goes on to say:

“Never before has it been possible for some 300 selected universities and colleges to receive so magnanimous a gift, nor, have many of these sheets been available except to a very limited, map-conscious few.”

Jan. 21, 1946 memo from G. Sinclair to C. Stroven: Board of Regents approved 1) Library being a map depository; 2) allocated money for 30 map cases; 3) establishment of position (SP-5) to duties related to collection

It's not certain when the Map Collection was established but the arrival of the AMS maps in 1945 certainly started it. (Eleanor Au thinks that some of the first librarians to handle map duties may have been Miss Genevieve Correa or Miss Euphie Shields)

1949 United Nations depository established at the Library. Letter of 25 November 1949 from Carol H. Milam, director of Library Services (UN, Lake Success)

The UN depository for Hawaii was previously with the Library of Hawaii and the UH Library was purchasing needed materials.

1952 World Health Organization (WHO) depository established at UH Library.

Letter of June 23 from Euphie Shields, assistant librarian, thanking Dr. N. Howard-Jones of the World Health Organization for his letter of June 5, authorizing the University of Hawaii Library as the depository for WHO publications.

April 30, 1952: request from the Library of Hawaii to transfer depository for WHO documents to the University of Hawaii Library. WHO documents at the Library of Hawaii transferred to UH.

July 1952 UNESCO depository established

Letter of July 28, 1952 from Frances V. Randolph, Documents officer, U.S. Dept. of State to Carl Stroven: University of Hawaii Library has been appointed an official depository for UNESCO. Support for UNESCO depository also came in the form of correspondence of Riley H. Allen, editor of the Honolulu Star Bulletin (letter of February 22, 1952 to Mr. Gerald. L. Carnes, UNESCO liaison officer in New York.)

In 1955, Eleanor Chong, hired in 1952 as a cataloger, became the government documents librarian. She succeeded Agnes Conrad who was the interim government documents librarian. Until the early 1980s, Miss Chong (later Eleanor Au) was also head of Hawaiian and Pacific Collections and Archives.

1955/1956 (from University Librarian annual report)

During the Christmas vacation, the Library moved to its new building (in 11 working days). Opened on the morning of the second semester (1956). On May 4, 1956, the building was dedicated as the Gregg M. Sinclair Library..

1958/59

United Nations and International Documents collection transferred to Government Documents from the closed shelves of the Circulation Department in January 1956. Began binding the official records, periodicals, and serials. (Apparently these collections were not part of Government Documents initially)

Note: statistical records for the UN collection prior to 1956 were sketchy and probably not recorded.

1959/60 (Government Documents annual report)

Atomic Energy Commission: AEC depository established October 1959. Included unclassified AEC publications.

The annual report was submitted by Margaret A. Monico, exchange librarian (September 1959-September 1960) from Pennsylvania State University. She states: "The exchange has been eminently satisfactory to me, both personally and professionally; the work is interesting, the staff most congenial." Miss Chong's exchange position at the Pennsylvania State Library was in their reference department.

Maps and Microfilm Collection : staffed by Clara Ching (it's not clear when the Maps and Microfilm Collection was established)

1962/63

GovDocs: 3rd staff member added September 1960

Eleanor Chong now BOR specialist series (R-2 level)

James Fitzpatrick Librarian II

Map Collection: no report available.

1964/65

Government Documents and Maps and Microfilms were separate units under Public Services and Special Collections.

James Patrick, professional assistant, transferred to Reference Department, June 16.

Mrs. Florence Kinoshita was the clerical assistant

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1966/67 John Awakuni was a student assistant in the Collection!

Reclassification of non-professional personnel. Example: Typist II to Library Assistant III; Library Assistant I to Library Technician V

First inspection of Map Collection, its facilities and services by the Washington office of the Army Map Service (Marjorie Greenleaf was the inspector).

1967/68

Library Assistant III Miss Emmaline Wong left for promotion in Circulation Department.

Replaced by Charlene Orikassa, who left in May. Mrs. Ellen Hew began May 16.

Evening and weekend service provided by the Information Desk librarians on duty.

1968/69

Personnel: Mrs. Clara Ching, assistant documents librarian since 1965, retired on August 31, 1968, after serving as microform and maps librarian, before that collection merged with Documents in 1965.

New assistant documents librarians:

Mrs. Patricia Anderson (September 1968-May 1969)

Mrs. Patricia Bieber (June 2, 1969)

Mrs. Florence Kinoshita, LTV, resigned November 1968 (with the library since 1945)

Mrs. Jean Takaki (December 1968) filled position. Received a 20-year service pin)

Mrs. Ellen Hew left for promotion in Circulation Department, May 1967.

Mrs. Joyce Kamimura (formerly Card Section) filled position of Library Assistant III

Miss Eleanor Chong promoted to Assistant Library Specialist (1968)

Map Collection moved to the Graduate Research Library (Hamilton Library)

From Science and Technology Division 1968/69 report:

In November 1968, in order to make room for the HRAF files, the Map Collection was transferred from Social Sciences to Science and Technology. Mr. Basil Idler responsible for management of collection, including selection, supervision of student help, and consultation with cataloging and serials regarding map and map series.

1976: Government Documents moved to Hamilton Library Phase II, Ground Floor.

Map Collection transferred back from Science and Technology Division to Government Documents

Microfilms and Reprography (card production and photography?) also to Government Documents?

Staffing: Department Head: Eleanor Au (formerly Chong)
Government Documents Librarian: Patricia Shelden
Government Documents Librarian : Eloise Van Niel?
Library Technician V: Jean Takaki
Library Assistant IV Joyce Kamimura
Map Collection: Ashby Fristoe, maps librarian (transferred in from Technical Services)
Microfilm Room: Katherine Kurakake, Library Assistant
Photography: Takumi Tashima (?)
Eleanor Au transfers out to become Head, Special Collections Department
Virginia Richardson, transfers in from Cataloging Department
Patricia Shelden is Department Head (all librarians start rotation as department head every 3 years)
Teresa Agtang, Library Assistant IV

1980's	Ashby Fristoe, map librarian, retires
1981	Map Collection: Mabel Suzuki, Library Technician VI (newly created position), transferred from Serial Department, promotion)
1982	Janet Morrison, Librarian II (3 rd librarian position)
198?	Pearl Dias, half-time Government Documents librarian (East West Center fund)
1988	Mabel Suzuki, Government Documents librarian (filled Janet Morrison's vacant position) (Department Head: 1992-1994; 1999-2001)
1989	Ross Togashi, Library Technician VII, Map Collection (promotion from Circulation Dept) Verna Young, Government Documents Librarian (transferred in from Cataloging Department) upon Patricia Shelden's retirement
199?	May Suzuki, Ralf Neufang (transfers in from BHSD as temporary government documents librarians, serves approximately 1-2 years each) Paraprofessional staff: Gayle Tanoura, Library Assistant IV Barbara Kudo, Library Technician V

Carol Fukumoto, Library Technician V

Clara Inouye, Library Assistant IV, Library Technician V

1998 Virginia Richardson, Head of Government Documents, retires

1999 Gwen Sinclair, Government Documents Librarian (Head, 2002-2004, 2005-)
Verna Young, government documents cataloger, retires

2000 Anne Stone, Government Documents Librarian

2002 Lori Sunada, Library Technician V

2004 THE FLOOD, October 30, 2004

2005- Government Documents staff, service, and collections temporarily housed in
Sinclair Library and Dole Cannery
Map Collection staff and collection temporarily housed in various areas of
Hamilton Library and Sinclair Library basement

2006 Temporary flood replacement librarian: Carol Hasegawa
Temporary flood replacement library assistant IVs:
Yuri Kenney (Jan-May)
David Bowman
Linda Tawater

Anne Stone resigns

Submitted by Mabel Suzuki, August 24, 2006.